



Baker, Shevardnadze Open 'Talks

Brief June Summit Indicated; Aides Discuss Multi-Warhead Missiles

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Secretary of State James A. Baker III and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze laid the groundwork yesterday for a bare-bones working summit of the U.S. and Soviet leaders here in June, as their experts began work on potentially far-reaching proposals to reverse the increase in strategic multiple-warhead ballistic missiles.

As Baker and Shevardnadze sat down for the first of three days of discussions, officials on both sides

said they are planning a two- or three-day businesslike summit meeting between Presidents Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev, with no U.S. tour or other extensive travel by Gorbachev.

Gorbachev had been expected to spend about a week in the United States. But the Soviet leader's heavy workload, and constraints imposed by the dispute with Lithuania and other nationality groups at home, have caused his trip to be drastically shortened, officials said.

Baker disclosed last night after 3½ hours of talks with Shevardnadze that the Soviet minister had

brought with him a letter from Gorbachev to Bush. Baker declined to discuss the letter's contents or details of their conversation beyond saying that they "spent quite a bit of time on arms control and . . . on the situation in Lithuania."

Baker said Shevardnadze had repeated an earlier remark about the importance of resolving the Lithuanian dispute "through dialogue." He said that although he and Shevardnadze have not completed their discussions of the issue, "there's no disagreement with respect to its importance and with

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EDUARD SHEVARNADZE
... brought letter from Gorbachev

respect to the importance of resolving it . . . through peaceful means."

Shevardnadze said, "I have no doubt that we will be able to find a solution to that situation . . . consistent with the interests of both the Lithuanian people, and of the Soviet Union . . . and of Europe and in the interests of peace."

The idea of cutting or otherwise limiting the number of multiple-warhead missiles, especially those based on land, has been discussed in arms control and academic circles for many years. The Soviets sought an agreement to prevent development of these weapons in the mid-1970s but the United States, then far ahead in this sophisticated technology, rejected the idea.

Since then, officials in both nations have said the risk of nuclear conflict has increased from widespread deployment of multiple-warhead missiles on land, where the weapons pose an inviting target and must be used in the initial stage of a conflict to escape destruction. The largest such weapons are each capable of attacking 10 targets.

Within the past few weeks, officials said, the Bush administration secretly proposed that the issue of limiting land-based, multiple-warhead missiles be discussed during Shevardnadze's visit. Although some officials favor including the limits as part of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) now in the final stages of negotiation, others have urged that the two sides merely outline constraints that would be implemented under a second strategic accord to be negotiated later.

A cloak of secrecy has been drawn around the discussions by the Bush administration, with some officials ordered not to address it in any fashion with outsiders. Soviet sources confirmed yesterday, however, that such limitations are under active consideration among the experts assisting Baker and Shevardnadze in the current talks.

The conflict between the Soviet Union and Lithuania cast a shadow over the Baker-Shevardnadze discussions from the start. Earlier in the day, Baker said that although the United States has "a degree of concern" about developments regarding Lithuania, he was encouraged by what appeared to be the beginnings of a dialogue between Moscow and the Lithuanians.

By late afternoon, however, Baker had received word from Moscow that a scheduled meeting of Lithuanian representatives with Soviet Interior Minister Vadim Bakatin did not take place. Baker said he planned to take this up with Shevardnadze, but the Soviet minister, quizzed by reporters as he arrived for the talks, said he knew nothing about this development.

Asked by a reporter what he would call recent Soviet activities in Lithuania if not the use of force, Shevardnadze replied through an interpreter, "I think that there is no use of force. Of course, in any country, in any state, measures are taken in order to have order, in order to have a normal situation, and it is this elementary order that is being established . . . within the framework of the constitution and our laws."

The House of Representatives yesterday approved by a vote of 416 to 3 a resolution asking Bush to reaffirm his commitment to Lithuania and to take the earliest possible steps to normalize relations with Lithuania as an independent nation.

Thirty-one senators, led by Sens. William L. Armstrong (R-Colo.) and Donald W. Riegle Jr. (D-Mich.), said in a letter to Bush that U.S. warnings against the use of force in Lithuania have been ineffective. They called on Bush to spell out the consequences for Moscow if more force is used.

Outside the White House, in a demonstration some participants said was timed for the Shevardnadze arrival, several hundred protesters chanted "No Peace! No Summit!" and carried signs calling on Bush to press the Soviets harder against using force in Lithuania.

Bush yesterday held an unscheduled meeting with three Soviet refuseniks who thanked him for helping Jews leave the Soviet Union.

Staff writers David Hoffman and Ann Devroy contributed to this report.